

INTERNATIONAL CHESS

The Annual Match Between Great Britain and the United States. Other Sporting Gossip.

THE annual International cable chess match between Great Britain and the United States which is to be held March 23-4 is attracting great interest this year because whichever side wins will thereby be entitled to permanent possession of the magnificent trophy put up for competition by Mr. E. G. Newnes of London. The side which first won three matches was to own the big piece of silver, and at present the score stands at two victories apiece. Every effort has been made to get together a representative American team, and it is thought that our experts have good prospects of duplicating their success of a year ago.

Two changes have been made from last year, Delmar and Bampton replacing Baird and Johnston. Most of the players are fairly well known. Harry N. Pillsbury is the American champion, and, of course, ranks as the first man on the American team. It is an understood matter that he and Blackburne, the champion of England, shall play against each other as long as they continue to be members of the teams. Last year Blackburne beat Pillsbury, the American champion being the only player on his side to lose; but this is not so surprising when the Britisher's wonderful ability in a match game is considered. Blackburne beat Pillsbury in 1896, and the games between them were drawn in 1897 and 1898.

Showalter, Barry and Hodges were the Americans who won their games last year, all the rest making draws except Pillsbury. Barry and Showalter have each won four games in these cable matches and are the only Americans who have clean scores. Showalter was the first player to win last year. When he announced a win in seven moves, he was wildly cheered by the immense throng of onlookers. A woman presented the handsome Kentuckian with a bouquet of flowers, which she stated was to be for the first American to score a victory.

One of the players on the American team last year who was then practically unknown was Frank J. Marshall of New York, who is to contest again this time. He is one of the best of the younger generation of our chess experts, and a very bright future is predicted for him. Mr. Marshall is 22 years of age. He is a native of New York, though he received his chess in Montreal, where he resided for several years. He was champion of the Montreal Chess club at 15, winning the title three years in succession. In 1893 he moved to New York and joined the

Chicago recently he accomplished the wonderful feat of playing against 16 opponents while blindfolded and made the splendid record of 11 victories, 4 draws and only 1 defeat. This is a feat that has been equaled but two or three times previously and is a criterion of the champion's wonderful skill.

The chess players of Columbia, Harvard, Yale and Princeton are busily preparing for the annual cable match with Oxford and Cambridge, which is set for April 20 and 21. Last year Columbia and Harvard were represented on the team by two players each, whereas Yale and Princeton had only one apiece. Owing to the death of really strong players at Princeton this year, it is possible that Old Nassau will not be represented and the place rendered vacant will be given either to a third Columbia or to a Harvard player. It is thought by many that this step would be advisable in order that the Americans' chances might not be lessened by the desire to have all four institutions figure in the match.

Golf is to have an inning at the Paris exposition. Toward the end of April the Societe de Sport de Compaigne of France will hold a grand golf tournament. A match for the amateur championship, an amateur handicap, a women's championship and a women's handicap will be held. The St. Andrews rules will govern, and artistic prizes have been put up by the exposition authorities. The entries closed on the 15th of this month.

The great popularity of golf in America is probably not realized to its full extent by those who have not followed the matter up closely. The fact, however, that there is a well founded rumor in circulation that a number of women seriously contemplate entering the professional ranks shows how the interest in the game is spreading. These women purpose teaching the game to the thousands of women and children who are taking it up. Of course, according to the bylaws of the United States Golf association they would by so doing forfeit their amateur standing, but, aside from this fact, there seems no reason why teaching golf should not prove an agreeable and profitable method of making a living for women who are capable of so doing. Women teachers of what have proved a great success, and why not of golf? The only thing is, what will the men teachers say to it? Nowadays teaching women is the most profitable part of the business for the professionals, and they may object to having their in-

bicycle races at Paris next summer is a question that is causing a good deal of talk just now. The international events in France are scheduled for August, so that any amateurs going over to compete would have to leave early in July, so as to have a couple of weeks in which to get acclimated after the sea voyage.

There were several American amateurs at the end of last season who should stand a good show against the best riders in the world at Paris if they can get anywhere near their present records. It will be a great pity if these men cannot have a chance to ride in international championships. A special rule allows amateurs to have their expenses paid to an international meet, but owing to the fight between the L. A. W. and the N. C. A. last year neither organization made any money, so that the latter will hardly feel inclined to dip into its treasury to send any riders on such an expensive trip.

One way out of the difficulty that has been suggested is for the N. C. A. to hold the amateur championship contests early in July and make the track owner or promoter on whose grounds they take place guarantee to pay the expenses of the winners to the Paris races.

GOLDEN COULD DO HIS SHARE.
Here is a story Richard Golden tells which occurred in a club in Detroit some years ago: Golden and his company were invited to a banquet at a certain clubhouse, as were also several members of a vaudeville organization playing in the city. During the course of the banquet the members of the profession were called upon to entertain. Three or four song and dance brethren came in late at the juncture of the proceedings where Mr. Golden was being called up. The late comers were seated and immediately commenced to devour the things on the table and were soon totally oblivious to their surroundings. With their heads bent close down to the table, they shoved in the victuals with both hands and made themselves the objects of considerable quiet remark from the other guests. Golden says the incident reminded him so forcefully of an occurrence a few years ago when he was an all round man in the Transcontinental Circus at Marion, O., that he couldn't refrain from telling it.

It was in the days when the board bills of performers were paid by the management," said Mr. Golden, "and we were a half fed lot. Business had not been good with us during the rainy season, and creditors were hovering in our wake in swarms. The fare in the hotel at Marion was unusually good, and the way we tackled the grub was a caution to see. I was among the first relay to get a seat at the great long table, and we had just got fairly started when the boss canvasser appeared and exclaimed excitedly: "Shove de grub in your face good,

when he was an all round man in the Transcontinental Circus at Marion, O., that he couldn't refrain from telling it.

The late comers immediately commenced to devour the things on the table.

"The Actors Are Come Hither."

—Hamlet.

AT THE Lyceum theater in this city Charles Frohman's London comedians are at present appearing in "My Daughter-in-law," a comedy in three acts by Fabrice Carre and Paul Bilhaud. The piece enjoyed some success at the Criterion theater, London, but, business being seriously affected by the war in South Africa, Mr. Frohman wisely decided to bring this rather

the method adopted by the soubrette at "35 per" to indicate that the time to laugh had arrived. With all her shortcomings, however, Miss Brough easily made the hit of the piece, and it is very likely that if Mr. Frohman should conclude to keep her in this country and compel her slightly to tone down her contentions she would in time share with May Robson the honor of being



Two Scenes from "My Daughter-in-law"

expensive organization over here for a brief season rather than run the risk of almost certain loss in the British metropolis. The cast of characters is as follows:

Reginald Mainwaring, Sr., M. P. Herbert Standing
Reginald Mainwaring, Jr., Seymour Hicks
Sir Theophilus Brown, Henry Kemble
Algernon Sweeting, J. L. Mackaye
Christopher Bulstrode, Ferdinand Gottschalk
Anastasia Bulstrode, Joseph Maylen
Mrs. Reginald Mainwaring, Fannie Brough
Countess Ledoisla, Margaret Robinson
Mary, Josephine Gautier
and
Mrs. Reginald Mainwaring, Jr., Ellaline Terris

You will doubtless observe that Miss Ellaline Terris is in a measure featured through the agency of the little word "and" which separates her name and role from the rest of the dramatic personnel. Without unnecessary delay, it may be noted that this distinction is not merited, for, while Miss Terris is a neat, dainty and conscientious little comedienne, there is absolutely not one single evidence of the possession of that indefinable something which is at once recognized as genius. Pretty she is, too, but even in that respect she is in no sense remarkable. In short, there are scores of actresses in this country more beautiful and more talented than Miss Terris who are obliged to worry along through the trials of theatrical life without the aid of that significant and momentous little word "and."

Regarded as a whole, Mr. Charles Frohman's London comedians are people of a trifle more than "deadly mediocrity" and a great deal less than brilliancy. There is not, in fact, a single member of the organization who would be likely to create anything of a sensation in any kind of a role, and, on the other hand, there is not a member of the organization who would be likely to make any role appear ridiculous. It is of those nice, "acceptable" aggregations of players one hears of so often and sees so seldom.

What has been said of the comedians as a whole might be said with added force of Mr. Seymour Hicks, to whom is intrusted the principal male character. He has such an air of authority that he almost convinces you that he must be an exceptionally fine actor, but his work will not for a moment bear analysis. He talks like a phonograph with the register gone wrong, and were it not that he is possessed of a remarkably pleasing and distinct voice it would be impossible to more than guess at the subject of his discourse.

Mr. Hicks, in the supper scene with his wife, approaches in vulgarly vulgar close to Mr. Francis Wilson in a similar bit in "Ermeline." In other words, he shovels the food into his mouth as though he had never seen a refined person at table, and behaves, moreover, much as a man who had just emerged from a 35 days' fast.

The only member of the cast of "My Daughter-in-law" who at times threatened to do something exceptionally clever was Miss Fannie Brough, who appeared as the shrewish mother-in-law. Miss Brough enjoys the reputation of being one of the best character actresses in London, and it is not difficult to see that there is probably substantial basis for this estimate of the lady's ability. But in the play at the Lyceum, just as you were beginning to say to yourself, "Well, here's one great player, anyway," Miss Brough would hump her shoulders or distort her features or take the audience temporarily into her confidence or do something else equally infantile and equally like

one of the best character actresses in the United States.

"My Daughter-in-law" as a play is scarcely worth the space given to it here. It is not an exceptionally ambitious effort, and yet in some manner it manages to keep the audience laughing about half the time. It is really a comedy in story and a farce in treatment. The actors have apparently determined to regard it as a farce, and it is probably fortunate that they have done so, for, played in the true high comedy spirit, it is doubtful if it would bring more than a half hearted laugh every now and again. The story of the play is simplicity itself, and has done duty with the French dramatists for generations. Reginald Mainwaring, which, by the way, the people in the play pronounce as though it were spelled Mainwaring, is a young barrister who has married a pretty girl. The latter for some reason is not liked by her mother-in-law, who has determined to separate the young couple. To that end she gets the servant of the younger Mainwarings to report to her everything that happens. While the occurrences are innocent enough, the suspicious old woman sees in them positive evidence that her son's wife is not conducting herself as she should. The climax comes when an imaginary appointment is to be made which the elder Mrs. Mainwaring imagines is between the younger lady and her husband's secretary. In reality her own husband is to meet an adventuress—a countess from Poland, Mrs. Mainwaring senior is, of course, on hand and learns of the perfidy of her liege lord. That practically ends the play, which, while not exactly a pink of propriety, is, nevertheless, not vulgar, at least from the French standpoint, despite the giddiness of the aged though skittish member of parliament.

There are several character sketches. Two brot to her everything that happens, and the other a practically deaf musician, are absurdly unfunny. In the latter role Ferd. Gottschalk, an exceptionally fine actor, was wasted. In fact, he has never been seen in this city at such a disadvantage. There is also a fool private secretary who is close behind the deaf and blind team for uninterestingness. The Countess Ledoisla is a poorly drawn character, but she is necessary, for she is the pivot about which revolves the little effort at a plot, culminating, as it does, in the exposure of the member of parliament, Reginald Mainwaring, Sr., and the discomfiture of his conscientious though not over-amiable spouse.

Still, after all has been said, there is no denying that "My Daughter-in-law" appears to please the people who nightly crowd the little Lyceum theater, and as they are the only critics for whom the box office cares a rap it is likely that Mr. Charles Frohman is highly gratified at the reception accorded to his London comedians, especially since the house profits are all in the family, so to speak, Mr. Daniel Frohman being the manager of the Lyceum.

A few years ago the announcement of the coming of Helena Modjeska in this

city was sufficient to attract a crowd of anxious ticket buyers to the box office of the theater at which she might be billed to appear. Now the talented Polish actress finds that much of her popularity here has departed, and what is worse, it is doubtful that it will ever return. What is responsible for this? That is a subject which has recently been discussed with much interest along the Rialto. One old time actor who gets things wrong about as often as any person who frequents that alley of misinformation must have had his prophetic canon on recently, for it is generally conceded that at last he has stumbled on a correct theory or proper position or whatever you prefer to call it. His explanation of the decline of Modjeska in this city is that the public has lost interest in her solely because of the frequent and sometimes suspiciously earnest references to her age. One would think, says this sage, that Modjeska had become as homely as a hedge fence and that she was barely able to walk a few steps with the aid of a pair of particularly ingenious crutches. As a fact, he added, she was never more royal looking than at present, and her acting has meliorated until it is now better than any she has ever shown us. I take no stock in the theory that the people don't go to see Modjeska because she has only old plays to offer. Let Booth appear in the flesh and give us "Hamlet" and "Othello." They are certainly as old as anything in Mod-

THEY RANG IN WINTERGREEN.

Fred Hallen recently told the following story to a select party after a friendly game of poker.

"When I was in the circus business, several years ago, I happened to find myself touring Texas with a wagon show. When we reached Houston, we were somewhat annoyed by a fellow named Modjeska who seemed to be calling the show one evening when they had their habits on. After the performance that night I happened to go into a saloon nearly where a negro poker game was in progress. The stakes were small, and in lieu of chips the players were using peppermint lozenges, which were somewhat annoying by reason of their being so close to the mouth."

"It became interested in the game and watched it until almost the close, when I started toward the door. Half an hour later I passed the place again and saw a large crowd inside. I walked in and learned that two of the poker play-



ers had been shot by the bankers of the game.

"What's the trouble?" I inquired of a big, burly negro.

"It ain't been found out yet, boss," he answered. "All I knows is dat de banker put one of de poker chips in his mouth, an, yelling out dat it tasted like wintergreen, drew his gun an shot two niggers dead."

ZOROASTER'S CAREER.

Zoroaster, the game little bay gelding by Rayon d'Or-Astoria, which has been winning a number of races in California this winter for Willie Shields, his owner, has had an eventful career during his short period on the turf. Billy Barrick, the plunger, owned him at one time. He was so bad that it took Barrick three weeks to find a man who would accept him as a gift. Finally he secured an angel, who took Zoroaster up to the Canadian circuit. Among a bad lot Zoroaster finally won a seven furlong race in very slow time. Subsequently he was shipped on the cars to another point in Canada, but before he reached his destination he looked like a wreck. He had had a car fit and in his struggles had torn all the skin off his hips and flanks.

His owner was financially broken and tried to sell him. No one wanted him. Finally he appealed to Hugh McCarran, a horse owner, to find a purchaser for Zoroaster. Hughie accidentally ran across Willie Shields, the ex-jockey, and told him about a good horse he could buy cheap. "And," added McCarran, "I'll give you a sure winner. He is at 20 to 1 in the betting. Put \$10 on him and win yourself a horse." Nothing loath, Shields did as advised. Strange as it may seem, the 20 to 1 chance rolled home. That night Shields owned Zoroaster. The gelding improved steadily under Shields' training and has won over \$6,000 this winter. More than this, Shields refused an offer of \$2,000 made by Papinta, the dancer Zoroaster is entered in all the big handicaps.

THE ACME OF GALLANTRY.

A pretty story is told of Miss Ellen Terry. To assist a certain charity in the provinces she offered a kiss to be put up at auction. The bidding was brisk and had advanced in three leaps from 2 guineas to 30 when, without further parley, the round sum of £100 was offered.

There being no higher bid the kiss was knocked down by the auctioneer to a colonel in one of England's crack regiments, who came forward to meet the blushing actress. But to the surprise of all present the colonel introduced a dear little fair haired boy, explained that it was his grandson's fifth birthday and that he had acquired the kiss as a birthday gift for him, whereupon Miss Terry took the child in her arms and discharged her debt with interest.

acted in this country in the autumn and winter of 1883-4. They visited us professionally again in 1884-5. Their next visit was in 1887-8. They were here again in 1893-4 and 1894-5. The present is, therefore, their sixth tour of American cities.

Stuart Robson has only two children—one a boy of 7 and the other a daughter of 4.

Arthur Crispin

New York.

GETTING ON NICELY.

There never was such a rush of American talent to the English stage as at the present time. One day recently, in London, a very recent importation encountered a more seasoned pro., who, since his arrival, has become violently British in dress, in manner and, so far as in him lies, in speech. The Londoner's way of saying "Yes" especially he has adopted, an accomplishment of which he is exceedingly proud.

"Getting on well, are you?" asked the recent importation.

"Yes," answered the other. "Going to stay some time?"

"Yes" (more cockney than before). "Like the town?"

"Yes." "Climate agrees with you?"

"Yes."

Fully a dozen other questions were put, the reply to all of them being an affirmative answer. After the seventh or eighth "Yes" he slipped the Britishized actor on the shoulder. "Congratulations, my boy!" he said. "You've got that 'Yes' down fine. You'll soon be able to begin on words of two syllables now, won't you?"

Lamp" company, has one of the largest collections of expensive and rare old laces in this country. This has been her fate for several years.

Sara Bernhardt is giving a series of matinees in her Paris theater at which, assisted by other actors, she recites ancient and modern poetry, for the benefit of poor students.

Henry Irving and Ellen Terry first



THE NEFFES TROPHY

Brooklyn Chess club, where he won the championship two years in succession. Marshall went to London last summer and won first prize in the minor section of the international tournament. Last month he won the championship of New York state. He has made application for entrance to the international tournament which will be played by the masters at the Paris exposition in May.

The scores in the previous international matches were:

	United States.	Great Britain.
1896.....	4½	3½
1897.....	4½	2½
1898.....	4½	2½
1899.....	6	4

Aside from match play, there probably never have been two greater experts at the blindfold chess game than the present champions of England and the United States. Blackburne long ago proved his almost miraculous ability and memory power at this sort of game. Pillsbury has been touring the United States for several months giving exhibitions and playing match games. In

THE AMERICAN CHESS TEAM.

comes curtailed by the invaders. It may be that we shall see a strike among the golf professionals and hear the old cry of cheap female labor before the summer is over.

Whether this country will be represented in the amateur championship

convert Jefferson's play into a comic opera.

Mansfield speaks six languages, exclusive of that he uses when the rattling of steam pipes irritates him and leading women are an aggravation.

The comedy by Charles H. Yale and Sidney R. Ellis in which Al H. Wilson

is to star next season will be called "The Watch on the Rhine."

Coquelin has scored a hit as Jean Valjean in a dramatization of "Les Miserables."

Julia Arthur's real name is Ida Lewis. She is a Canadian, was born in 1869 and made her first stage appearance as an amateur at the age of 12 years.

After two seasons in vaudeville, Flo

Irwin will star again next season in "The Swell Mitchell."

It is claimed that, even at a moderate estimate, there are in the United States more than 5,000 theaters, of which fully 2,000 may be classed as legitimate.

Cissie Loftus has played Bettina in "The Masquerade" and not, it is rumored, with astounding success.

As a bit of stage history it is said that

the limelight was first used in theatrical productions in the season of 1837-8 in London and was greatly improved in 1842.

Edward Harrigan contemplates reviving "Old Lavender" for a road tour.

Quite a number of vaudeville players are stranded in Havana.

Edna Wallace Hopper, one of the stars of "Chris and the Wonderful

WITH THE PLAY ACTORS.

In an English version of "Don Juan," which Richard Mansfield is to play, the last act is laid after the reformed hero's death, in spirit land. That dramatic Alexander did not weep because he had no more worlds to conquer.

De Wolf Hopper may impersonate "Tip Van Winkle" next season. He will